

## 10/27 Self Help and Heroic Medicine

### Heroic Therapy

Case: George Washington's death  
Powerful induced symptoms as proof of powerful treatment  
Powerful treatment for powerful disease  
America vs. Europe: bigger, stronger, more robust  
Case: Benjamin Rush  
Medical marketplace: therapeutics and identity  
Heroic therapy today: chemotherapy, transplants, ECT

### Emergence of Therapeutic Alternatives

Homeopathy: Samuel Hahnemann  
Botanical medicine: Samuel Thomson  
Health reformers: Sylvester Graham  
Self-help movement: Jacksonian demography, "every man a doctor"  
Hydropathy, naturopathy, Christian Science, etc.

### Medical Marketplace

Competition for patients  
What treatments are tolerable? impressive? effective?

### Sources of Stability and Change in Therapeutic Systems?

Decline of depletives over mid-19th century  
Pierre Louis, the numerical method, and therapeutic skepticism  
Oliver Wendell Holmes and therapeutic nihilism  
Rise of opiates and stimulants

### Disease Change and Therapeutic Change

Tuberculosis and the rise of stimulants?